



VIA ELECTRONIC COMMENT FILING SYSTEM (ECFS)

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Suite TW-325
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90 – Connect America Fund – Expression of Interest for Rate-of-Return Rural Broadband Experiment

Dear Ms. Dortch:

South Plains Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (South Plains) hereby submits this non-binding expression of interest to conduct a rural broadband experiment in our Edmonson exchange, located in west Texas. The Edmonson exchange straddles the four remote, rural counties of Castro, Hale, Lamb and Swisher, located north of Lubbock Texas.

Background

South Plains is a rate-of-return incumbent local exchange carrier that provides local exchange service, long distance, and high-speed Internet with speeds up to 20Mbps to most members and video in several exchanges. South Plains has a total of 16 exchanges spread over a 2,335 square mile area in 11 counties of west Texas. Today most anchor institutions in our service area are provided access to high-speed broadband service; however, we still need to extend fiber facilities to the less densely populated areas of many exchanges like Edmonson. South Plains believes the Edmonson exchange meets the objectives set out by the Commission for the broadband experiments.

Proposal

Today our 200 members located in the Edmonson exchange do not have reliable broadband service. This is due to the need to extend fiber within the 121 square mile area. Edmonson is a sparsely populated exchange that serves mostly residential, farms, dairies and agricultural related business. To be able to provide reliable broadband service in this area, approximately 66 miles of fiber needs to be deployed. This area is remotely populated and is not a candidate for fixed wireless technology. Today our members have access to broadband service that is

less than 1Mbps downstream. However, if our request is approved, we would be able to offer downstream speeds ranging from 3Mbps to 20Mbps, along with video and other IP-based services. We estimate the costs of this project to be approximately \$1,345,000. This investment includes mostly deployment of fiber and electronics.

South Plains appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest and we look forward to further Orders that provide additional details. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Scotty Hart
CEO/General Manager
South Plains Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
806 763 2301